

## **CASE MANAGEMENT/ELECTRONIC CASE FILES (CM/ECF) FACT SHEET**

### **JUNE 2002**

The federal judiciary is now well underway with the nationwide implementation of its new Case Management/Electronic Case Files (CM/ECF) systems. CM/ECF not only replaces the courts' aging electronic docketing and case management systems, but also provides courts the option to have case file documents in electronic format, and to accept filings over the Internet.

CM/ECF systems are now in use in nine district courts, thirty-three bankruptcy courts, and the Court of International Trade. Most of these courts are already accepting electronic filings. More than 2 million cases with more than 8 million documents are on CM/ECF systems. And nearly 15,000 attorneys and others have filed documents over the Internet. Under current plans, the number of CM/ECF courts will increase steadily each month into 2005. Each court goes through an implementation process that takes about 10 months, and each month four to five additional courts complete the process.

Attorneys practicing in courts offering the electronic filing capability are able to file documents directly with the court over the Internet. The CM/ECF system uses standard computer hardware, an Internet connection and a browser, and accepts documents in Portable Document Format (PDF). The system is easy to use – filers prepare a document using conventional word processing software, then save it as a PDF file. After logging onto the court's web site with a court-issued password, the filer fills out several screens with basic information relating to the case, party and document being filed, attaches the document, and submits it to the court. A notice verifying court receipt of the filing is generated automatically. Other parties in the case then automatically receive e-mail notification of the filing.

CM/ECF also provides courts the ability to make their documents available to the public over the Internet. The Judicial Conference has recently adopted a set of recommendations relating to privacy and public access to electronic case files. As part of the process to develop these recommendations, public comment was sought on a number of possible approaches. The Judicial Conference's Committee on Court Administration and Case Management is now beginning to address the schedule for implementing the recommendations.

There are no added fees for filing documents over the Internet using CM/ECF; existing document filing fees do apply. Electronic access to court data is available through the Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) program. Litigants receive one free copy of documents filed electronically in their cases, which they can save or print for their files. Additional copies are available to attorneys and the general public for viewing or downloading at seven cents per page, with a maximum cost per document of \$2.10. Directed by Congress to fund electronic access through user fees, the judiciary has set the fee at the lowest possible level sufficient to recoup program costs.

The national roll-out of the CM/ECF system for bankruptcy courts started in early 2001, and is scheduled to take two to three years. The CM/ECF system for district courts began to roll out nationally in May 2002. The CM/ECF system for appellate courts is expected to be ready for use during the late summer of 2003.

For more information, please contact: Karen Redmond, Office of Public Affairs (202) 502-2600

Relevant websites:

<http://www.uscourts.gov/cmecf/cmecf.html>

<http://www.privacy.uscourts.gov/>

## **Courts Currently Operational on CM/ECF**

*\* Courts Accepting Electronic Filing*

### *District Courts*

California Northern\*  
District of Columbia\*  
Michigan Western\*  
Missouri Western\*  
Nebraska\*  
New York Eastern\*  
Ohio Northern\*  
Oregon\*  
Pennsylvania Eastern\*  
  
Court of International Trade

### *Bankruptcy Courts*

Alaska\*  
Arizona\*  
Arkansas\*  
California Southern\*  
Colorado  
Delaware\*  
Georgia Northern\*  
Illinois Southern\*  
Iowa Northern\*  
Kentucky Eastern  
Kentucky Western\*  
Louisiana Eastern\*  
Louisiana Middle\*  
Maine  
Missouri Western\*  
Nebraska\*  
Nevada

New Hampshire  
New Jersey\*  
New York Eastern\*  
New York Southern\*  
North Carolina Western\*  
Ohio Northern  
South Dakota\*  
Texas Eastern  
Texas Southern\*  
Texas Western\*  
Utah  
Vermont\*  
Virginia Eastern\*  
Washington Western\*  
Wisconsin Western\*  
Wyoming

## **Courts Currently in the Process of Implementing CM/ECF**

### *District Courts*

Alabama Southern  
California Central  
Indiana Southern  
Iowa Northern  
Kansas  
Massachusetts  
Maryland  
Maine  
New York Southern  
Pennsylvania Middle  
Texas Northern  
Wisconsin Eastern  
  
Court of Federal Claims

### *Bankruptcy Courts*

Alabama Middle  
Alabama Southern  
California Northern  
Connecticut  
District of Columbia  
Florida Middle  
Georgia Middle  
Hawaii  
Illinois Northern  
Indiana Northern  
Iowa Southern  
Kansas  
Louisiana Western  
Maryland  
Massachusetts  
Michigan Western  
Mississippi Northern  
Missouri Eastern  
Montana  
New Mexico

New York Northern  
New York Western  
North Carolina Eastern  
North Carolina Middle  
Ohio Southern  
Oklahoma Eastern  
Oregon  
Pennsylvania Eastern  
Pennsylvania Middle  
Pennsylvania Western  
Rhode Island  
South Carolina  
Tennessee Middle  
Tennessee Western  
Texas Northern  
West Virginia Northern  
West Virginia Southern  
Wisconsin Eastern

## **Courts Starting Implementation in the Next Six Months**

### ***District Courts***

California Southern

Connecticut

Kentucky Eastern

Missouri Eastern

South Dakota

Texas Southern

Washington Western

West Virginia Southern

Wyoming